



Department of
Linguistics and Modern Languages
語言學及現代語言系

Postures in American Sign Language: Linguistic and Psychological Perspectives

Linguistics Seminars

Prof. David P. CORINA

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
University of California, Davis, U.S.A.

Date: April 28, 2020 (Tuesday)

Time: 4:30pm - 6:15pm

Venue: * **Seminar will be conducted via ZOOM**



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Abstract

Research on signed languages used in Deaf communities provides a unique opportunity to explore the representational properties that underlie human linguistic communication. Comparison of signed and spoken languages challenge us to consider the role of the signaling modality in linguistic representations. Outwardly, when one observes sign language communication, one is struck by the prominence of dynamic articulatory movements. Traditionally, the treatment of path-movement has figured prominently in formal representations of sign language phonology. In this talk, I provocatively break with this tradition and consider the role and importance of articulatory stasis in sign languages. Examining data from American Sign Language, I will provide linguistic and external evidence to motivate the importance of postures in sign languages. This approach holds promise in unifying phonological treatments of signed and spoken languages.

Speaker

David Corina is a visiting professor at the Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, Chinese University of Hong Kong, the director of the Cognitive Neurolinguistics Laboratory at the Center for Mind and Brain at the University of California, Davis, U.S.A., and faculty in the Departments of Linguistics and Psychology at U.C. Davis. His research has been guided by training in Linguistics, Psychology and Cognitive Science and aims to understand the cognitive representations and the neural basis for human language understanding. He has recently extended his research program to explore the development of language and document cognitive changes in congenitally deaf children with cochlear implants. This work benefits from the consideration of the effects of language experience and changes in cognitive abilities that arise from early auditory deprivation and benefits both basic science and clinical practice.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Enquiries

Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, CUHK.

Tel: (852)3943 7911/7025 Fax: (852)2603 7755 E-mail: lin@cuhk.edu.hk

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